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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/717,573	11/21/2000	Thomas P. Muller	99-478	2111

719 7590 04/16/2004

CATERPILLAR INC.
100 N.E. ADAMS STREET
PATENT DEPT.
PEORIA, IL 616296490

EXAMINER

GARLAND, STEVEN R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 04/16/2004

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/717,573

Applicant(s)

MULLER, THOMAS P.

Examiner

Steven R Garland

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2004.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19,23,24 and 26-45 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,10-19,23,24,26-45 is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. The drawings corrections received on 2/2/04 are approved. Corrected drawings incorporating the proposed changes are required.

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. 2002/0156666.

Taylor et al. teaches performance based contracting for motor productivity and guaranteeing motor up time (minimum productivity). See the abstract; figures; numbered paragraphs 0015,0016,0021,0034,0035, 0060,0062,0065, and claim 23. Note paragraph 0065.

Taylor however does not specifically state that the productivity of the machine (motor) is determined.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the productivity of the machine so that the performance based contract and its terms would accurately reflect the productivity of the current machine and any replacement machine.

In response to applicant's arguments, paragraph 0065 of Taylor clearly indicates that the up time is the percentage of time that the motor system is being guaranteed to run (productivity) not the time to get the customer on line as applicant argues.

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4. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taylor et al. 2002/0156666 as applied to claim 7 above, and further in view of Hagenbuch 5,754,965.

Taylor et al. teaches performance based contracting for motor productivity and guaranteeing motor up time. Taylor also teaches repair and maintenance. See the abstract; figures; numbered paragraphs 0015,0016,0021,0034,0035, 0060,0062,0065, and claim 23. Note paragraph 0065.

Taylor however does not specifically state that the productivity of the machine (motor) is determined.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the productivity of the machine so that the performance based contract and its terms would accurately reflect the productivity of the current machine and any replacement machine.

Taylor however does not teach determining operator skill level and determining if productivity is deteriorating.

Hagenbuch teaches measuring productivity and determining if productivity is deteriorating. See the abstract; figures; col. 1, line 48 to col. 3, line 47; col. 5, line 25 to col. 7, line 14; col. 7, line 55 to col. 10, line 29; col. 22, line 50 to col. 24, line 14.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Taylor in view of Hagenbuch and determine the operator skill level and determine if the productivity is deteriorating. This would allow a determination if the equipment under contract is at fault or whether the operator is at fault. Further this would allow needed repairs to be performed so as keep the contract in force.

5. Claims 1-6,10-19,23,24, and 26-45 are allowed.
6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven R Garland whose telephone number is 703-305-9759. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on 703-308-0538. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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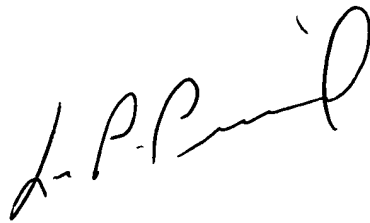
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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic
Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SR-C

Steven R Garland
Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Picard", written in a cursive style.

LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100